



July 9, 2023

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng”

♪ Rejoice, O pilgrim throng! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing;
Your festal banner wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.

~Rejoice! Rejoice! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

♪ With voice as full and strong As ocean’s surging praise,
Send forth the sturdy hymns of old, The psalms of ancient days. ~Rejoice...

♪ With all the angel choirs, With all the saints on earth
Pour out the strains of joy and bliss, True rapture, noblest mirth. ~Rejoice...

♪ Yet on and onward still, With hymn and chant and song,
Through gate and porch and columned aisle The hallowed pathways throng. ~Rejoice...

♪ Still lift your standard high, Still march in firm array,
As pilgrims through the darkness wend Till dawns the golden day. ~Rejoice...

♪ At last the march shall end; The wearied ones shall rest;
The pilgrims find their home at last, Jerusalem the blest. ~Rejoice...

♪ Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom we adore:
The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, One God forevermore. ~Rejoice....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 813 -Text: Edward H. Plumptre 1821-91; Tune: Arthur H. Messiter 1834-1916;
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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Confession and Absolution

With the apostle Paul today we admit, “I do not understand my own actions.

For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.”

Romans 7:15

At the invitation of God our Savior, let us bring our weariness and burdens to Him, that His forgiveness may rescue us and restore to us the joy of His salvation.

For if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean and cannot free ourselves. Although we rejoice at Your joy, daily our sins of thought, word, and deed cause us grief. We have forgotten You even when we needed You the most. Our love for our neighbors has faded. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, we come at His invitation seeking the true rest of the forgiveness of our sins. Amen.

Upon this, your confession, I by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word announce the grace of God to you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end grant us Your promised rest and the full joys of Your salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“Joy to the World”

- ♪ Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
- ♪ Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- ♪ No more let sins and sorrows grow Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
- ♪ He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders of His love.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 387-Text: Isaac Watts 1674-1748; Tune: George Frideric Handel 1685-1759;
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Old Testament Reading

Zechariah 9:9–12

⁹Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!
Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he,
humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

¹⁰I will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall speak peace to the nations;
his rule shall be from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

¹²Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to you double.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

Romans 7:14–25a

¹⁴For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. ¹⁵For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. ¹⁶Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. ¹⁷So now it is no longer I who do it,

but sin that dwells within me. ¹⁸For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, ²³but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

- ♪ Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.
- ♪ All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav’n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow’ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Please Stand

- ♪ Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountain-head of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav’n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 803 -Text: Henry Van Dyke 1852-1933; Tune: Ludwig van Beethoven 1770-1827;
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Holy Gospel

Matthew 11:25–30

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

²⁵At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; ²⁶yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²⁷All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. ²⁸Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Apostles’ Creed

Children’s Message *Please Be Seated*

The Hymn

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

- ♪ Jesus, Lover of my soul, Let me to thy bosom fly While the nearer waters roll,
While the tempest still is high. Hide me, O my Savior, hide, Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide. Oh, receive my soul at last!
- ♪ Other refuge have I none; Hangs my helpless soul on Thee. Leave, ah, leave me not alone,
Still support and comfort me! All my trust on Thee is stayed, All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head With the shadow of Thy wing.
- ♪ Wilt Thou not regard my call, Wilt Thou not accept my prayer? Lo, I sink, I faint, I fall;
Lo, on Thee I cast my care; Reach me out Thy gracious hand! While I of Thy strength receive
Hoping against hope, I stand, Dying, and behold, I live!
- ♪ Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in Thee I find. Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
Heal the sick, and lead the blind. Just and holy is Thy name; I am all unrighteousness,
False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.
- ♪ Plenteous grace with Thee is found, Grace to cover all my sin.
Let the healing streams abound; Make and keep me pure within. Thou of life the Fountain art,
Freely let me take of Thee; Spring Thou up within my heart, Rise to all eternity.

The Lutheran Hymnal, Hymn 345-Text: Charles Wesley 1707-1788; Tune: Simeon B. Marsh 1798-1875; Public Domain

Proclamation of the Word

“As the Battle Rages”

Romans 7:14–25

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy.

Hear our prayer.

Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

Amen.

Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“Softly and Tenderly”

- ♪ Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, Calling for you and for me;
See on the portals He’s waiting and watching, Watching for you and for me.
~Come home, come home, Ye who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, Calling, O sinner, come home!
- ♪ Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies, Mercies for you and for me? ~Come...
- ♪ Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing, Passing from you and from me;
Shadows are gathering, death’s night is coming, Coming for you and for me. ~Come...
- ♪ O for the wonderful love He has promised, Promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon, Pardon for you and for me! ~Come....

*The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration, Hymn 326 -Text & Tune: Will L. Thompson 1847-1909;
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Postlude